

## **Bible Study, Becoming More Like Jesus, Week 2**

### **Day: 1 Forgiveness**

*Read 1 John 1: 8-10*

1. Why is it important to get forgiveness for our sins?
2. What does the Bible say about it?
  - Romans 6: 23
  - Isaiah 59: 1-2
  - Revelations 21: 27
3. What do non-Christian believers do to get rid of sin?
4. What is God's answer to the forgiveness of sins?
  - 2 Timothy 1: 9-11
  - Romans 3: 21-24
  - Acts 4: 12
5. When is confession of sins not sincere? 1 John 1: 9-10
6. Why do some Christians still feel guilty after they have confessed their sins?
7. Further Reading:
  - Ezekiel 36: 25-38.                      God cleanses
  - Psalm 139: 23-24.                      Eyes that can see sin
  - 1 Peter 5: 2-4.                              Care group members helping each other
  - Isaiah 1: 15-20.                           Sincere cleansing
  - 1 Thessalonians 4: 1-8.                   A holy life

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### **Day: 2 Stay Under The "Rain" Of God's Blessing**

*Read Psalm 67*

1. How do we stay in God's blessing?
2. Why does God bless us? (Psalm 67: 2)

3. How are we supposed to use God's blessings, spiritual as well as financial?
4. What will the result be/ (Psalm 67: 3-5)
5. What should our dream be for all the nations on earth?
6. What are the blessings we will receive if we stay under God's "rain" of blessings? (Psalm 67: 6-7)
7. If God choose make us and our congregation financially free, what is the pupose?

Further Reading:

- Matthew 28: 16-20.                      Our missionary command
- Luke 6: 43-45.                              We are known by our fruit
- Luke 14: 25-33.                              The demands of discipleship

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### **Day: 3 Stumbling Blocks In Prayer**

*Read Matthew 6: 5-15*

1. Can we invest in our relationship with God or the lack of our investment in our relationship with God be a stumbling block in our prayer relationship with God?

2. Stumbling block #1: Pride.

- James 4: 1-2
- 2 Corinthians 12: 7-9

Where does pride come in the prayers above?

3. Stumbling block #2: the name of Jesus.

- John 16: 1-2
- Matthew 17: 3
- Luke 9: 54

a) Why is it important to pray in Jesus' name?

- b) Do you think that praying in Jesus' name is what defines us as Christians?
- c) Is the name of Jesus what being a Christian is all about?

#### 4. Stumbling block #3: Sin.

- Job 11: 13-18
  - Isaiah 59: 1-2
  - Psalm 19: 13-14
  - Hebrews 12: 14-15
- a) You have to think, prayer is an action
  - b) Not confessing our sins can become a stumbling block. We must ask God to show us our unknown sins.

#### 5. Stumbling block #4: Busy Life.

- Acts 6: 1-4
- a) A busy life is the snare Satan uses to keep us from praying.
  - b) We must know that prayer is "best" and work is "good"

#### 6. Stumbling block #5: Unfair Prayers

- Always think about what will happen if God answered all your prayers
- What if we are praying against other Christians?
- Can we expect God to hear our prayers if we pray for help after we have been willfully negligent?
- Do you think God should answer prayers that will not be good for our spiritual life?
- Can NO also be an answer?

#### 7. Stumbling block #6: Glory to God

- Can a prayer be a sentimental corny prayer without any substance/
- Can a prayer be nothing but habit?
- Can our prayers go only about ourselves and have nothing to do with God's glory?
- Should we keep in mind that it is all about God and not about us?

#### 8. Stumbling block #7: "Not to ask" and "to ask"

- Praying wrong:
  - a) Habit Matthew 6: 7
  - b) In public Matthew 6: 1-2 and 16
  - c) Selfish James 4: 1-3
- Not praying

- a) Matthew 26: 40-41
- b) James 4: 2

- i. If you do not pray you are going to do sin
- ii. If you do not pray you are going to get caught in things
- iii. Even if you do not want to sin you will sin if you do not pray
- iv. You will not get because you do not pray

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### **Day: 4 On The Road Together**

*Read John 1: 1-16*

1. Make three conclusions about the following:

- We are born from the same father John 1: 13
- We are following the same leader Matthew 23: 10
- We are on our way to the same destination and we share the same inheritance Romans 8: 17

2. What should believers do together?

3. What does Colossians 3: 13-17 say believers should do together?

4. What is the reason why believers do not get involved with each other?

5. Read Philippians 2: 1-4

- Which command is given here?
- What is the secret to doing this successfully?
- What are the reasons for dissent between believers?
- Make five rules to ensure that a care group will always be united.
- How should we keep gossiping out?

6. Further Reading:

- Nehemiah 2: 17-20.                      Dissent is trying to stop growth
- Acts 2: 41-47.                              Characteristics of the first congregation
- Acts 4: 32-36.                              Characteristic of the first Christians

- John 17: 6-12. Prayer and unity
- John 17: 13-26. The power and testimony of unity

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### **Day: 5 Love For Jesus**

*Read Revelations 2: 1-7*

1. What are the positive characteristics of Ephesus? (2, 6)
2. What are the positive characteristics of?
  - Your congregations
  - Your care group
  - Each individual member of your care group
3. What is it that Jesus had a big problem with? (4)
4. How do you notice when someone's love for God is cooling down?
5. What should one do if you realize that your love for God is cooking down? (5, 7)
6. Further Reading:
  - John 21: 15-19. Confession of love
  - Revelations 3: 14-22. Unaware of spiritual "cooling"
  - John 15: 1-8. Stay in God's love
  - John 14: 15-31. The proof of love
  - Luke 9: 23-26, 57-62. Love has a price

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### **Day: 6 Authority**

*Read Genesis 3: 1-20*

1. Do you believe in Satan? Give reasons for your answer.
2. What do the following say about it?
  - Genesis 3: 15
  - John 8: 44
  - 2 Timothy 2: 26
  - 1 Peter 5: 8
3. Why shouldn't we try and stand up to Satan in our own power?
  - Ephesians 6: 10-13
  - Luke 10: 17-20
4. What is our power and authority as Christians?
5. In what does this power and authority reside? Colossians 2: 14-15
6. Are a Christian allowed to fear the devil? Give reasons for your answer
7. In what will you be able to see if someone is living in authority and victory over evil?
8. Further Reading:
  - Luke 4: 18-21.                      Jesus the savior
  - Luke 13: 10-17.                      Bound by bondage
  - Revelations 12: 1-18.                      The war of evil
  - Deuteronomy 18: 10-12.                      The practices of evil
  - Colossians 1: 13-20.                      Jesus great above all

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## **Day: 7 Tithes**

*Read Deuteronomy 14: 22-29*

1. Why is money mentioned the second most in the Bible?
2. How should our attitude be when we give our tithes?

3. What are the guidelines the Bible gives us?

- 2 Corinthians 9: 6-7
- Luke 6: 38
- Mark 12-41-44

4. Discuss the following statement: "It does not matter how much you give, what is important is the attitude you give it with?"

5. What is your view on giving tithes?

6. What do Matthew 3: 8-10 and Matthew 23: 23 say about it?

7. Do I have to give my tithe only to the church or can I distribute it as I wish?  
Deuteronomy 12: 5-6

8. Further Reading:

- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Psalm 116: 12-19.     | Thank God for His blessings |
| • Philippians 4: 15-20. | Principles of tithes        |
| • Luke 16: 1-13.        | Use the Mammon's dishonesty |
| • Malachi 1: 6-14.      | Worthless tithes            |
| • Luke 18: 18-27.       | A save investment           |

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